Class Three - Content Literacy Leadership (Secondary)

Tennessee Department of Education | Spring 2016

Integrated Leadership Course III Agenda

	Key Framing Questions For Course	Content Focus
8:00 AM-8:30 AM	Welcome and "Are we ready for literacy?"	Outline for the Day Prepared to Ready - Leader Actions
8:30 AM-9:45 AM	What should content literacy classrooms look like?	- ELA - Social Studies - Science • Math • Literacy Walk
9:45 AM-10:00 AM	**BREAK**	
10:00 AM-11:45AM	What could content literacy classrooms look like?	Instruction and Assessment - Alignment - Readiness Data • Using the Data to Plan Instruction
11:45 AM-1:00 PM	**LUNCH**	
1:00 PM-2:30 PM	What Do I Need to Support My Teachers' Capacity to Build Ready Literacy Classrooms?	• Cycle of Assessment • Teach (Standards and Tasks) • Assess (Written Expression) • Analyze (Student Work) • Action (Scaffolding) • Teacher Partnerships • Partnership Tool
2:30 PM -2:45 PM	**BREAK**	
2:45 PM-3:45 PM	What does it take to create a Literacy Culture at your school?	• ACT and Literacy - Switch - Goal Setting • Urgency
3:45PM-4:00 PM	How does the journey to ready continue? (Closing)	• Bridge to Practice Assignments • Survey for TASL information


TN
Department of
Education
Content Literacy Leadership
Course

Welcome!

Today, we are excited to welcome you to course three of our re-designed Integrated Leadership Course series.

II

Norms

- Keep student learning and success at the center.
- Be present and engaged. *(If a school emergency occurs, step awayfrom class to address issue).*
- Share, discuss and reflect with openness, respect, and transparency.
- Stay solutions oriented.
- Be flexible and patient with our digital learning spaces.

Digital Material Options

OneNote Pilot Option	iBook	Interactive PDF Option
• Digital Access to All Course Content	• Full features on a Mac computer, iPad, or iPhone	• Limited Access to All Course Content
• Received through Email	• Received through Email	• Received through Email
• Requires OneNote Application or Office365 (free)	• Access to all content through app	• Requires PDF Reader Application (free)
• Fluid Format Allows Adding Personalized Notes	• Fixed Format • Highlighting and tagging features	• Fixed Format
• Sharable With Teachers	• Sharable with Teachers	• Sharable with Teachers
• Embedded Documents and Links	• Embedded Links	• Embedded Links

Note: You received the Digital Quick Start Guide in your final logistics email.

TN

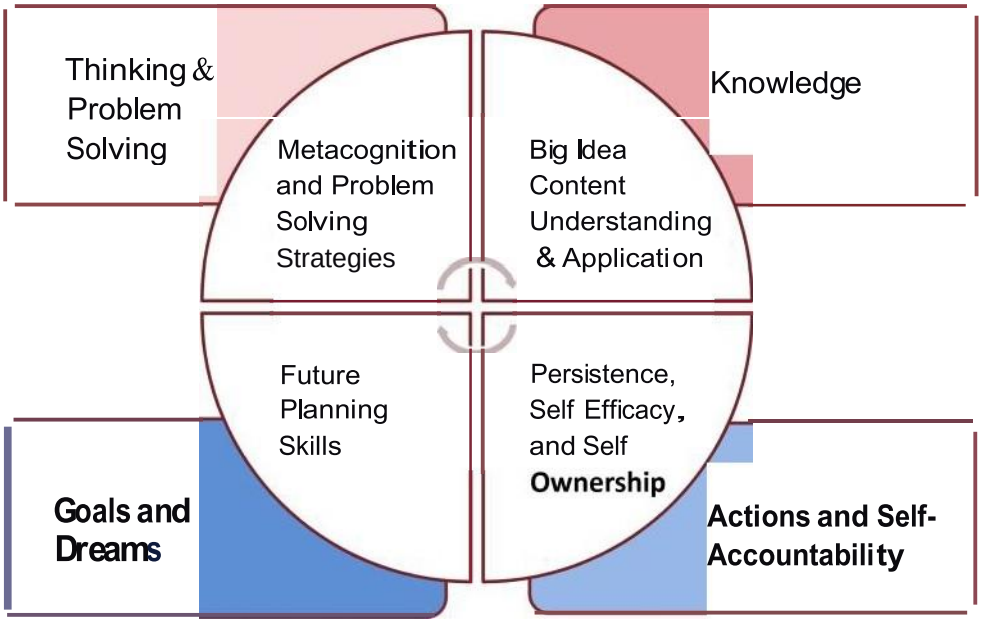
[TDOE Leadership Training Web page]

What is a ready student?

Literacy is a multi-faceted, complex relationship of interrelated skills. The **ultimate goal** of literacy instruction is for students to become proficient readers and writers.

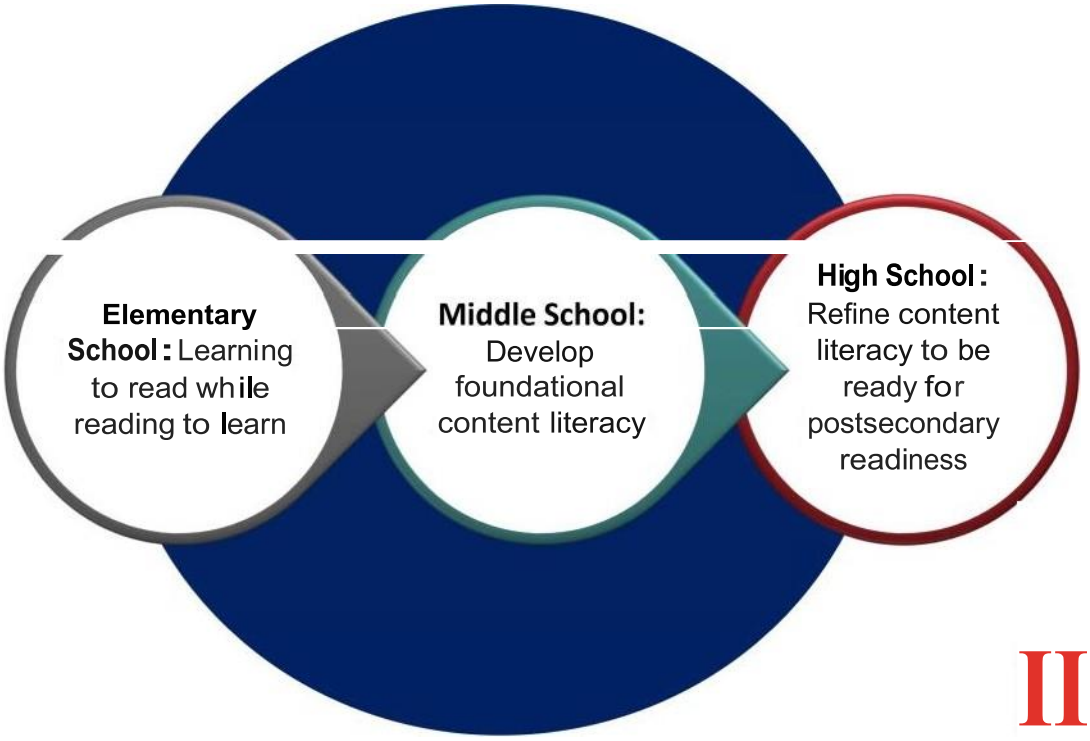
II

Components of a Content Literacy Classroom



III

Literacy Transitions



What is the difference between reading and writing and meaning making and written expression of understanding?

Middle School	High School

What does ACT ask our students to do?

"The biggest differentiator of success for our students on the ACT, is ***the ability to read complex text proficiently****. We know that the majority of passages on the ACT are nonfiction/informational texts. Because of this, we need to* ***further develop the literacy skills in our students to access all types of texts.*** *Strong reading, fluency, comprehension, and stamina should be encompassed in our classrooms every day.* ***It is only when our students are strong readers will we be able to see significant movement in our state's ACT average,*** *signaling that Tennessee students are ready for the challenges of college and the workforce."*

-Commissioner Candice McQueen

Why does improving ACT scores matter?

The desire to raise Tennessee's ACT average is rooted in **improving postsecondary and career readiness** for all Tennessee students. This goal reflects the reality that Tennessee students will enter a workforce that requires some type of postsecondary training. With **a score of 21,** students are **predicted to be more successful in both college and career.**

ACT Connections: Tennessee Academic Standards and ACT Subtests, p.7

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Frequently Asked Questions
TNReady & ACT Alignment

1. What is the purpose or goal of the ACT?

The ACT is a nationally recognized benchmark assessment for college and career readiness that provides a snapshot of a student's K-12 academic career. ACT assesses students' cumulative knowledge from grades K-12 while end of year tests, like TNReady, assess content in specific grades and subjects more deeply. By taking the ACT, students gain valuable information on their readiness for postsecondary and the workforce. A student's ACT results can be used for the following:

- Admission to postsecondary education
- Opportunities for scholarships (e.g., HOPE scholarship, ASPIRE award, etc.)
- Placement into college courses
- Prediction of postsecondary success

2. What is the purpose or goal of TNReady?

TNReady will assess and provide information on a student's mastery of the Tennessee academic standards in English language arts and mathematics at each grade level. Because TNReady is specific to a grade and subject, the test will deeply assess a student's content knowledge in each subject. This assessment is designed to provide educators, parents, and students with a clear picture of our students' progress toward college and career readiness by measuring students' understanding of problem-solving abilities, not just basic memorization skills.

3. Why does improving ACT scores matter?

The department's five-year strategic plan, *Tennessee Succeeds*, lays out the state's goal to have an average ACT composite score of 21 by 2020. The desire to raise Tennessee's ACT average is rooted in improving postsecondary and career readiness for *all* Tennessee students. This goal reflects the reality that Tennessee students will enter a workforce that requires some type of postsecondary training. With a score of 21, students are predicted to be more successful in both college and career. Allowing our students an opportunity to take the ACT within the school day removes a college entrance barrier for many of our students.

4. How are the ACT and TNReady designed differently?

TNReady is comprised of math and English language arts tests. These tests are taken in two parts on separate days throughout the course. Questions are designed in multiple formats (i.e., technology-enhanced items, multiple-select items, writing, and evidence-enhanced selected-response items), allowing students to demonstrate their depth of knowledge and conceptual understanding of grade- level or course-level concepts.

The ACT is a *survey assessment* that consists of four, multiple-choice tests. The four, multiple-choice tests include English, reading, mathematics and science reasoning. The ACT provides a culminating view of a student's entire academic career and predicts college readiness.

The table on the next page provides a side-by-side comparison for each subject areas.

Subject	ACT	TNReady
Math	ACT measures how quickly and accurately a student can recall a wide variety of surface-level math skills that have been taught over a student's entire academic career. Questions are multiple choice and designed to assess specific mathematical skills. This is a 60-question, 60-minute test designed to assess math skills students have typically acquired in courses taken up to the beginning of grade 12. In Tennessee, a few standards from the fourth-grade math courses are on the ACT. Students may use a calculator on the entire math portion of the ACT.	TNReady is designed to measure how deeply students have mastered the math content taught in a single academic school year. It is a measure of mastery of a small portion of the math continuum a student needs during his/her scholastic career. Questions are designed in multiple formats to allow demonstration of conceptual understanding and to provide an opportunity for students to show their deep understanding of grade- level mathematical concepts. There are *calculator-permitted* sections and *calculator-prohibited* sections on TNReady.
English	For the English section, students have 45 minutes to answer 75 questions, including usage/mechanics (punctuation, grammar and usage, sentence structure) and rhetorical skills (strategy, organization, and style).	Part I is a writing subtest. Part II includes not only traditional multiple- choice questions, but also technology- enhanced items, multiple-select items, and evidence- based selected-response items, allowing for great depth of thought. On TNReady, students have 75 minutes to read several complex passages and answer 45-55 operational items.
Reading	For the reading section, students have 35 minutes to read four complex passages and answer 40 questions. The reading test is made up of four sections, each containing one long or two shorter prose passages that are representative of the level and kinds of text commonly encountered in first-year college curricula. Passages are on topics in social studies, natural sciences, literary narrative (including prose fiction), and the humanities (fine arts, philosophy).	

Science	The science subtest of the ACT does not assess specific understanding or comprehension of scientific topics (i.e., biology, chemistry, physics). Instead, the ACT aims to measure a student's ability to solve problems and interpret information under strict time constraints as a proxy for scientific reasoning. The test presents several sets of scientific information, each followed by a number of multiple-choice test questions, including data representation, research summaries, and conflicting viewpoints. This subtest has 40 questions in 35 minutes.	Students take a timed, multiple-choice, paper assessment that measures grade- and course- specific Tennessee academic standards in science.

5. How are the ACT and TNReady aligned?

Each test assesses a unique set of standards. While these standards overlap in places, the ACT assesses skills and knowledge from a student's full educational career while TNReady assesses a singular grade or course in math and English language arts.

6. Are the state standards aligned to ACTexpectations?

Tennessee's academic standards are aligned to the ACT, ensuring that students who show strong growth and achievement on TNReady will also be well prepared to meet the college- and career- readiness benchmarks on the ACT.

Math:

Mastery of the Tennessee academic standards in math prepares a student to be successful on the ACT assessment. Of the approximate 180 ACT math standards, all are addressed in Tennessee's K- 12 mathematics standards. The expectation for the ACT math assessment is that students should be able to quickly answer a wide variety of surface-level math questions very accurately. By stressing conceptual understanding at all levels, the Tennessee math standards prepare students to not only master this wide array of math, but also the standards are designed so that students must retain knowledge year to year.

English language arts:

The skills of the ACT English and reading extend across grade levels; however, the biggest differentiator of success is the ability to read complex text proficiently. The Tennessee academic standards call for students to have regular practice with complex text. Three of the four passages students read on the ACT reading subtest are nonfiction/informational text. This does not mean that 75 percent of teachers' instructional time is spent on nonfiction/informational text. It *does* mean that students should read a range of nonfiction/informational text from the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities throughout the school year.

7. Can we use TNReady to compute ACT scoreprojections?

Currently, our TVAAS system uses a student's historical TCAP performance to project his or her ACT composite scale score. These projections are used in calculating a growth score for ACT performance at the school level. Similarly, the TVAAS model will incorporate student performance on TNReady to calculate ACT projections and ACT growth scores.

In 2015-16, we will have students completing TNReady, as well as EXPLORE, PLAN, and ACT. We will use student ACT/EXPLORE/PLAN scores to complete a study to determine how TNReady performance relates to the probability of reaching the ACT benchmark score in grades 8,10, and 11.

8. Why do we need both the ACT and TNReady?

TNReady assesses a student's deep understanding of Tennessee academic standards, whereas the ACT holistically measures a student's college and career readiness based on a host of interrelated and/or comprehensive standards. Because of this, TNReady is necessary to measure mastery of more specific skills related to a specific grade level and subject as a means to measure progress, guide instruction, provide information for course/grade placement, and provide appropriate remediation/enrichment opportunities for students.

9. How should I be preparing my students for both the ACT and TNReady in the limited time I have? While the types of questions on the ACT differ from the types of questions on TNReady, the content is very similar. Teachers can prepare students for both TNReady and the ACT by implementing high-quality instruction every day. Strong, student-centered instruction that is aligned to the Tennessee academic standards is strong preparation for both TNReady and the ACT. While students will benefit from regular practice and familiarity with the format of the ACT exam, the skills that they need to do well (strong reading fluency, comprehension, and stamina; strong critical thinking and analytical skills in math, including algebra and geometry) are encompassed in both assessments. Though the content is not fundamentally different, the tests are structured differently; TNReady tests depth, the ACT tests breadth.

English and math ACT questions are based on skills and standards taught from elementary school through high school. This means that students who have a strong foundation in math and reading and who consistently perform well on TNReady will use the same skills to perform well on the ACT. Additionally, all academic areas have a crucial part to play in preparing students for ACT success.
Science and social studies teachers at all grade levels should be preparing students to read text in their contentareas.

Math and English language arts teachers at all levels should be aware of ACT benchmarks that are addressed within their grade level, some as early as the third grade. The key to preparing students for both assessments is an initial understanding of the differences in both format and purpose of these two exams and strategically integrating the differences, while teaching the Tennessee academic standards.

Reading Section of the ACT

The reading test is made up of four sections, each containing one long or two shorter prose passages that are representative of the level and kinds of text commonly encountered in first-year college curricula.

Passages are **on topics in social studies, natural sciences, literary narrative (including prose fiction), and the humanities (fine arts, philosophy).**

ACT Connections: Tennessee Academic Standards and ACT Subtests, p.5

II

English Language Arts of the ACT

The skills of the ACT English and reading extend across grade levels; however, the **biggest differentiator of success** is the ability to read complex text proficiently.

The Tennessee academic standards call for students to have **regular practice with complex text.**

It does mean that students should **read a range of nonfiction/informational text** from the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities throughout the school year.

ACT Connections: Tennessee Academic Standards and ACT Subtests, p.6

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Literacy Connections for ACT and TNReady

"English and math ACT questions are based on skills and standards taught from elementary school through high school. This means that **students who have a strong foundation in math and reading** and who consistently perform well on TNReady will use the same skills to perform well on the ACT. Additionally, all academic areas have a crucial part to play in preparing students for ACT success. **Science and social studies teachers at all grade levels should be preparing students to read text in their content areas".**

ACT Connections: Tennessee Academic Standards and ACT Subtests, p.7

II

Did you realize...

ACT is a measure of content literacy skills.

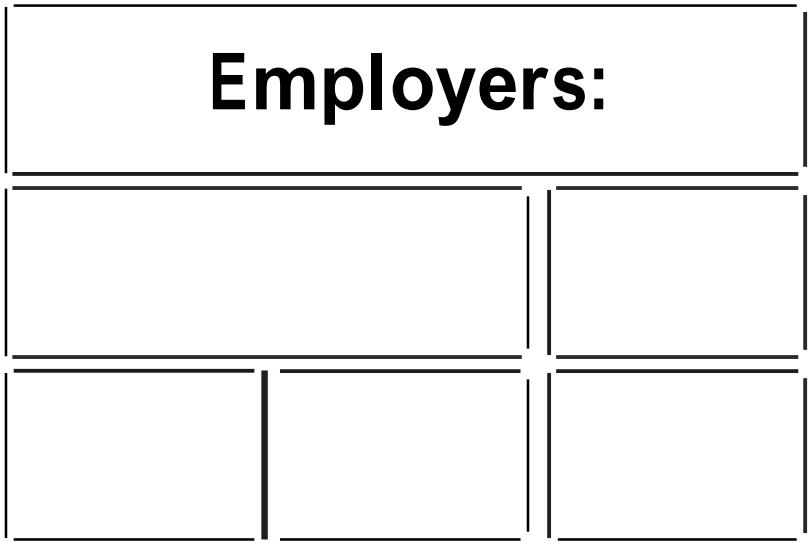
Middle School Content Literacy skills lay the essential foundation for high school refinement.

High School Content Literacy prepares students for the postsecondary (both careers and college) opportunities.

II

What do our employers and colleges ask our student to do?

Brainstorm expectations:



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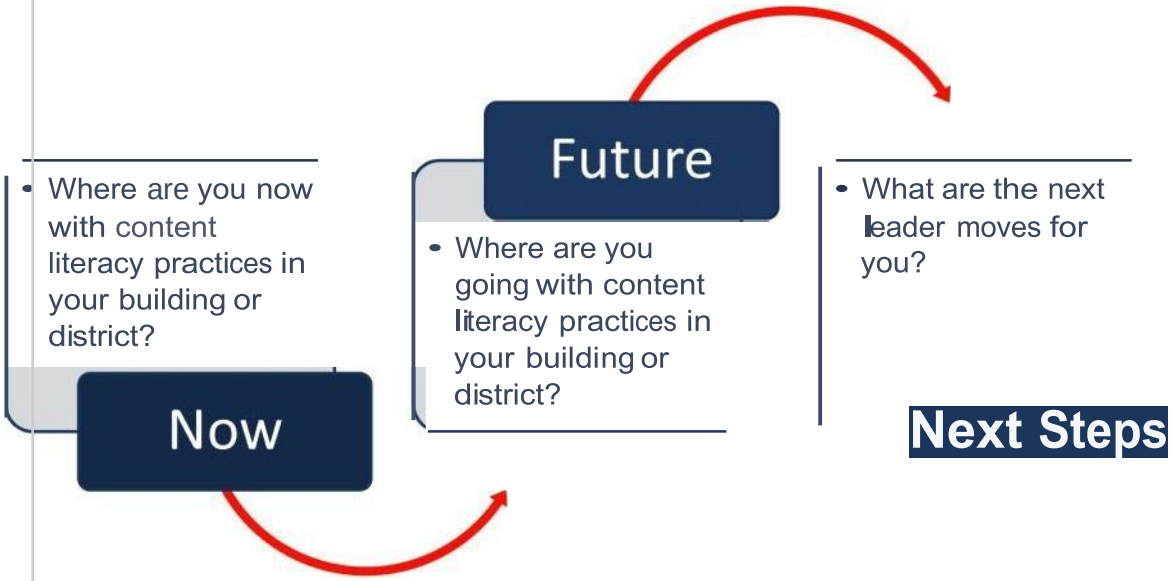
Reflections



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